

Date: April 6, 2004

RE: RM-10867

To whom it may concern:

While I am an ARRL member, I cannot say that I always agree with the things they propose for amateur radio. This proposition is one such item.

I firmly believe that if the FCC allows this proposition to go through, it will only aid in "dumbing down" the hobby of amateur radio. The idea that making entrance into any field of study easier simply to get more involvement in that field is absurd. I know the licensing requirements, testing process, and study materials applicable at the time I licensed were easier than those before I licensed; making them easier yet will only aid the deterioration of the hobby.

Not unlike job positions in business, rankings in the military, or grade level of students, I believe that privileges in amateur radio should be earned by proving that a candidate knows the material. If a student in high school has their grades "adjusted" for them throughout their high school career, by the time they graduate, they are not smarter or educated, they simply have a diploma.

Please don't dumb down my hobby by allowing this proposal to go through. If anything, the rules and requirements for obtaining an amateur radio license need made more stringent. People should earn their privileges not have them given to them arbitrarily.

Thank You,
Glen A. Powell